

REMARKS

In the Advisory Action, the Examiner indicated that the rejection of claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 11-17, 43, and 44 over U.S. Patent No. 6,184,381 was being maintained, although claims 3, 4, 7-10 and 45-47 were indicated as "objected to," i.e., allowable but for their dependence on rejected base claims. While not wishing to acquiesce in the Examiner's rejection, applicants have amended the claims so that claim 7 has been incorporated into claim 1, i.e., claim 1 now specifies the catalyst as a palladium catalyst. Since all other pending claims depend directly or indirectly from claim 1, all claims should now be in condition for allowance.

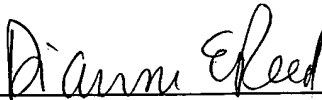
In addition, applicants have corrected several minor and inadvertent errors in the specification as filed, and have amended, canceled, and added several claims for purposes of clarification. All amendments and new claims find support in the application as filed and/or in the provisional application to which priority is claimed. Please note, also, that those claims withdrawn as a result of restriction, i.e., claims 25-42, have been canceled.

Finally, claims 18-24, previously withdrawn as directed to non-elected species, should now be recombined with the examined claims and allowed as well, since claim 1, a generic claim, is now allowable.

Accordingly, with claims 1, 6, 12, 13, 17, 43, and 45-47 having been amended, claims 7, 10, 11, 14-16, and 25-42 now canceled, and new claims 48-52 having been added, claims 1-6, 8, 9, 12, 13, 17-24, and 43-52 are now pending and should be in condition for allowance. Prompt mailing of the Notice of Allowance would be very much appreciated.

Should the Examiner have any questions concerning this communication, please contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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